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Letter dated 13 April 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Regarding the letter of the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations of 31 March 1993 (A/47/921-S/25513), I have the honour to point out the following:

The Permanent Representative of Croatia regrettably took advantage of the letter of the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the assessed contribution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations budget (A/C.5/47/91) to advance a series of erroneous interpretations and unfounded allegations concerning the status of Yugoslavia in the United Nations.

In this connection, I would like to recall that, in the opinion of the United Nations Legal Counsel (A/47/485, annex) of 29 September 1992, it was stated, inter alia, that "resolution [47/1] neither terminates nor suspends Yugoslavia's membership in the Organization" and that "the resolution does not take away the right of Yugoslavia to participate in the work of organs other than Assembly bodies".

Evidently, the Permanent Representative of Croatia is not aware of the fact that a decision to suspend someone cannot refer to a non-member State. The "entity", as implied by the distinguished Ambassador, cannot and does not pay any contribution to the United Nations budget at all, particularly not the one he refers to as "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)".

Moreover, the status and continuing membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations is also evidenced by decision 47/456 of

23 December 1992, by which the General Assembly, in adopting the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions, determined a new reduced rate of contribution for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations budget.

There is no need to read between the lines to comprehend that the Minister wrote on behalf of our country, which you have properly referred to as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, when addressing him in order to settle its part of the contribution to the United Nations budget and, as you may observe, not for a moment implied that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was the sole successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This is also affirmed by the active participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in resolving issues arising from succession of the former Yugoslavia.

In singling out only one view on the status of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, the Permanent Representative of Croatia did not take into account other relevant opinions on this issue. However, the only binding decisions on this matter are those already adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 111, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.